










MUSIC-READING SKILLS ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

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The purpose of this instrument is to measure the music-reading skills of the participant. Please answer each question to the best of your knowledge by checking either the YES, or NO answer box. If you are unsure of the answer or not confident enough in your answer to declare it, please check the Don't Know/Unsure box.





Please do not guess at the answers and do not leave any answer blank.

All questions are worth one point each, with the following exceptions: Questions 27, 28, and 35

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- 1) The following note is a half note:  ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 2) The following rest is a quarter rest:  ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 3) The following note is an eighth note:  ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 4) The following note always receives one beat regardless of the time signature:  ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 5) The following notes  (as indicated) are equal to one quarter note. ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 6) Placing a dot behind a note doubles the value of that note as in . ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- ~~7) The following is a half rest:  ☒ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure~~
- 8) The following note grouping () when found in the following time signature  means that these three notes will be divided equally across one beat. ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 9) Alto I (1) is higher than Alto II (2) (the same can apply to Soprano, Tenor, or Bass). ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 10) The term *legato* means: smoothly. ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 11) The term *crescendo* means: maintain current volume. ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure

- 12) The term *staccato* means: short and detached.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 13) The term *diminuendo* (*dim.*) means: shorter than usual.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 14) The term *poco a poco* means: little by little.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 15) *pp* is the symbol that refers specifically to the volume term: *piano*.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 16) *ff* is the symbol that best represents: very loud.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 17) D.C. (*da capo*), translated into English and applied to music means "return to the sign" (♮).
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 18) This symbol (⌂) represents the *coda*.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 19) Two sharps (♯) in a key signature indicates the following major key: E major.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 20) One flat (♭) in a key signature indicates the following major key: F Major.
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 21) The middle line on this clef (♫) is known as the D line.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 22) The space above the very top line in the bass clef (♮) is the G space.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 23) The top number in the time signature $\frac{4}{4}$ indicates the type of note receiving the beat.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure
- 24) If only one note was permitted in the following measure, which note would it be? (Select from A-D below and enter your answer.)


 Answer: _____

A) 
 B) 
 C) 
 D) 

25) If only one rest was permitted in the following measure, which rest would it be?



Answer: _____

A)

B)

C)

D)

26) Does the following rhythm have too few notes/rests, the correct number of notes/rests, or too many notes/rests within this measure to equal a rhythm value indicated by the time signature to complete the measure?



☒ Too few notes/rests

☐ Correct amount of notes/rests

☐ Too many notes/rests

27) Place the name of the line or space on the line beneath each note on the following staff (9 points):



28) Place the name of the line or space on the line beneath each note on the following staff (9 points):



29) The name of this clef symbol () is:

☐ Alto clef

☐ Bass clef

☐ Tenor clef

☒ Treble clef

☐ Don't know/Unsure

30) The name of this clef symbol () is:

☐ Alto clef

☒ Bass clef

☐ Tenor clef

☐ Treble clef

☐ Don't know/Unsure

31) Indicate the type (name) barline indicated by the star over the barline by selecting from the list of possible answers beneath the example.



- ☐ Final
 ☒ Normal
 ☐ Repeat
 ☐ Double
 ☐ Don't know/Unsure

32) Indicate the type (name) barline indicated by the star over the barline by selecting from the list of possible answers beneath the example.



- ☒ Final
 ☐ Normal
 ☐ Repeat
 ☐ Double
 ☐ Don't know/Unsure

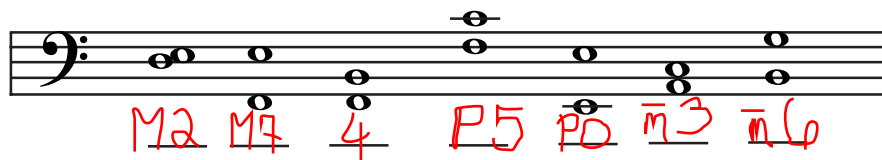
33) The term *adagio* refers to what in music?

- ☐ Dynamics
 ☒ Tempo
 ☐ Expressiveness
 ☐ Range
 ☐ Don't know/Unsure

34) The term *tenuto* best refers to the following:

- ☒ Hold for full note value
 ☐ Performed with feeling
 ☐ Slightly longer than staccato
 ☐ Don't know/Unsure

35) Identify the intervals of each of the following two note examples. Place only the number of the interval in the blanks below the intervals (7 points).



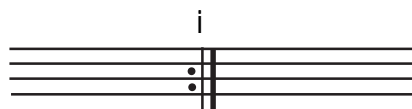
36) Generally speaking, the tempo term *Lento* refers to which of the following in music?

- ☐ Average tempo
 ☐ Fast Tempo
 ☒ Slow Tempo
 ☐ Conductor's discretion
 ☐ Don't know/Unsure

37) In the time signature $\frac{6}{8}$, quarter notes will represent the beats in each measure.
☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure

38) The Alto part is below the Tenor part. ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't know/Unsure

39) Is the following repeat sign (at the star) found at the *beginning* of a repeated section or the *end* of the same passage?



☐ Beginning ☒ End ☐ Don't know/Unsure

40) Three sharps in a key signature represents which of the following major keys?
☒ A major ☐ G major ☐ E major ☐ G# major ☐ Don't know/Unsure


41) In a key signature with flats representing a flat major key, the flats will appear in this order (all flats): B - E - A

Question: which flat is the *next* in this sequence?

☐ G ☐ C ☐ F ☒ D ☐ Don't know/Unsure


42) In the key of C major what is the "tonic" note?


☐ D ☐ G ☐ F ☒ C ☐ Don't know/Unsure


43) In terms of note type and value, are the following notes the same or different: a)  b) 


☒ (a) and (b) are the same ☐ (a) and (b) are not the same ☐ Don't know/Unsure


The remaining questions require that you fill in the blanks to identify the following symbols:

~~44) This symbol () when placed above or below a note is called:~~ tenuto

45) This symbol () when placed above or below a note is called: accent

46) This symbol () when located in the music (not the words) is called: breath mark

47) This symbol () when placed before a note is called: natural

48) This symbol () when placed above a note is called: fermata

————— **TEST CONCLUSION** —————

Additional Information Regarding this Instrument

This instrument only tests basic music-reading skills based on commonly occurring music-reading symbols, terms, and applications. There has been no effort to measure the “music-making” skills of those being tested (*e.g.*, aural pitch and interval recognition, tone production). Some music-reading elements are tested more extensively than others. This test only provides a “snap-shot” of music-reading skills. The resulting scores can provide the tester an indication of the music-reading strengths or weaknesses among those being tested. It is strongly suggested that those being tested not place their name on the test if the purpose is only to determine the reading skills of the choir membership as a whole. This might free the participant to be more forthcoming with an accurate score of their music-reading ability.

Scoring Procedure

- 1) Tabulate any question answered incorrectly or “Don’t Know/Unsure” as an incorrect answer.
- 2) Give each correct answer a score of one (1) point (note the additional points available on questions 27, 28, and 35). Then total the correctly answered questions together and divide that number by 70.
53 correct / 70 = 76% correct, or 24% incorrect
- 3) Each tester may determine what “Pass” or “Fail” might be. It is generally accepted that a score between 65% to 70% or higher is considered a “Pass” score. A score of 70% or higher would be a solid “Pass” score.

Musical Element Groupings

Symbols, Music Staff, Barlines
Questions 31, 32

Naming Lines and Spaces
Questions 21, 22, 27, 28

Treble/Bass Clefs
Questions 29, 30

Interval identification (number only)
Question 35

Repeats
Questions 17, 18, 39

Expression/Articulation markings
Questions 10, 11, 34, 44, 45, 46, 48

SATB voicing
Questions 9, 38

Tempo markings
Questions 33, 36

Notes/Rests (*alone, not in combination with other elements*)
Questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 43

Time Signatures (*alone, not in combination with other elements*)
Questions 4, 23, 37

Key Signatures/Pitch Modifiers
Questions 19, 20, 40, 41, 42, 47

Rhythms (*alone, not in combination with other elements*)
Question 8

Time Signatures, Rhythms, Notes/Rests combined
Questions 24, 25, 26

Dynamic markings
Questions 11, 13, 14*, 15, 16
(* as a modifier, *poco a poco* is found mostly in dynamics, but can appear with other markings as well)